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**The Life and Teachings of Jesus.** By HERBERT L. WILLETT, PH.D., The University of Chicago. *Bethany C. E. Reading Courses.* Chicago: F. H. Revell Co., 1899. Pp. 163. \$0.35.

In this small volume the author undertakes to give an account of the life and the teachings of Jesus! In general, we doubt the wisdom of attempts to summarize subjects of such wide range and large import. It requires a more thorough knowledge of the subject and greater skill in presentation than a full and elaborate treatment. And we doubt the utility of such attempts as well; for only those who are already acquainted with the whole field can really get very much benefit from a condensed summary. Dr. Willett's book was written for the young people of the Christian Endeavor Societies, and we should despair of their being able to digest its compact contents but for the questions that are appended to each chapter. Yet even with the best use of these, much of the book must fail of appreciation on the part of uninitiated and untrained students.

And yet the author has achieved no small degree of success in this effort to give a summary treatment of the vast subjects which he has taken in hand. He shows an acquaintance with the scope of his theme and in most cases a knowledge of the problems that are familiar to scholars, as well as of the literature. He shows, as well, that he has thought out most of the great problems for himself, and accordingly his treatment is marked by freshness and directness. The book is thoroughly modern, written from the standpoint of current thought and scholarship.

He has one brief chapter on the "Sources of the Life of Jesus," which he finds in Paul's epistles and the four gospels. This is followed by five chapters giving an orderly and fairly good statement of the important situations and the great events of Jesus' life. His treatment, in the remaining eight chapters, of the teachings of Jesus is much fuller and more satisfactory. His chapter on the "Characteristics of Jesus' Teaching" is, in my judgment, the best in the book.

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